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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,558	09/29/2003	Silvio Cucchi	Q77493	4284

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WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

ALPHONSE, FRITZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2133

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/10/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,558

Applicant(s)

CUCCHI, SILVIO

Examiner

Fritz Alphonse

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

0.1 This Office Action is in response to the amendment after final filed on 12/11/2006.

Claims 1-11 are pending.

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirata (U.S. Pat. No. 5,229,997) in view of Meyer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,283).

As to claim 5, Hirata (figs. 1-2) discloses a Forward Error Correction decoder for decoding a signal which has become affected by transmission errors, the original signal being transmitted together with parity data, the decoder comprising: a receiver (col. 2, lines 14-26) for receiving the original signal and parity data with errors; a checker (i.e., frequency sweep controller 17; col. 3, lines 63 through col. 4 line 9) for checking for integrity of the original signal using the parity data; and a counter (i.e., frame sync detector 16; col. 3, lines 53-62) for counting and locating the errors. Hirata teaches a decoder further comprises a comparator (15) for comparing the number of counted errors with an error threshold.

Hirata differs from claim 5 in that he does not specifically disclose that the correction is being performed only in case the number of counted errors is lower than the threshold.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Meyer discloses a system for correcting errors in data frames, wherein signal correction is performed when the number of counted errors is lower than the threshold (col. 1, lines 35-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to improve upon the error correction system, as disclosed by Meyer. Doing so would help to maintain both the signal quality of communications and low transmission power levels.

As to claims 6-7, Hirata (figs. 1, 2) discloses a decoder, wherein the error threshold (threshold comparator 15) comprises a first error threshold for checking lines of the original signal and a second error threshold for checking columns of the original signal (fig. 2; note the quadrature carriers).

As to claim 1, method claim 1 corresponds to apparatus claim 5; therefore, it is analyzed as previously discussed in claim 5 above.

As to claim 2, Hirata (fig. 2) discloses a method, wherein, when the number of counted errors is higher than the threshold, the correction of the original signal is performed in a different operation if a recursive decoder is used.

As to claim 3, Hitara discloses a method, wherein the setting an error threshold comprises setting a first error threshold for checking lines of the original signal and a second error threshold for checking columns of the original signal (col. 3, lines 31-52).

Art Unit: 2133

As to claim 4, Hitara discloses a decoder, wherein the setting and error threshold comprises setting a different error threshold for any of the correction iterations (fig. 2).

As to claims 8 and 10, Hitara discloses a decoder wherein the error threshold is a fixed maximum number of symbols in a codeword that the decoder is adapted to properly correct to reconstruct the codeword (col. 3, lines 31-52).

As to claims 9 and 11, the claims have substantially the limitations of claim 5; therefore, they are analyzed as previously discussed in claim 5 above.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The prior art of Zeira has been added for new ground of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9306 for all formal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3813. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00, Alt. Mondays off.

Art Unit: 2133

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert De Cady, can be reached at (571) 272-3819.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3824.

Information regarding the status of an application may also be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Fritz Alphonse

Art Unit 2133

January 5, 2007


ALBERT DECADY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100